

County Profile: Burlington

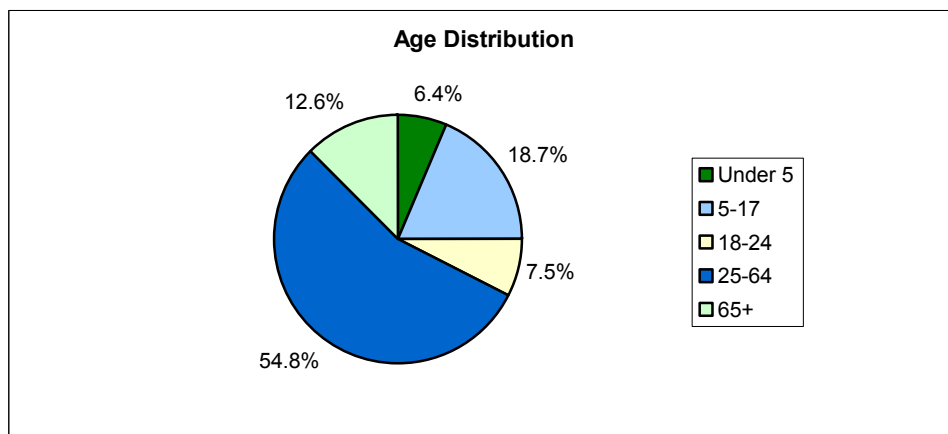


General Demographics

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 423,394 individuals reside in Burlington County's 40 municipalities. These individuals are spread out over a land area of 804.57 square miles, making Burlington the largest county in the state. It has a population density of 526.2 persons per square mile. Burlington County is the 11th most populous of the state's 21 counties.

At 7.2%, Burlington County grew less from 1990 to 2000 than the statewide average of 8.9%. However, about as many municipalities experienced growth over the past decade as had reductions. Growth ranged from a low of 0.1% for Cinnaminson township (total 2000 population – 14,595) to a high of 63% for Burlington township (total 2000 population – 20,294). Several fairly large suburban townships experienced substantial population increases, including Evesham township, with a 2000 population of 42,275, that experienced almost a 20% increase from 1990 to 2000, and Mount Laurel township, with a 2000 population of 40,221, which increased by about one-third from 1990 to 2000. Most sizable reductions occurred in relatively small communities; Pemberton township was the largest municipality to experience a reduced population over the decade, a decrease of 8.5% with a resulting 2000 population of 28,691.

Burlington County has 106,521 children under the age of 18. They comprise 25.2% of the county's total population and 5.1% of the state's child population. Approximately 62% of Burlington County residents are of working age (18 through 64), and 12.6% are 65 years and older. The median age is 37.1 years of age. In its age distribution, Burlington County differs slightly from the state as a whole.



Child Welfare

Burlington County's portion of statewide child abuse and neglect referrals is similar to the proportion of children residing in the county. While 5.1% of all children in New Jersey reside in Burlington County, 5%, or 1,925 of the child abuse and neglect referrals are generated there. Overall, the patterns of abuse and neglect resemble the state pattern.

Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals in 2001

	Burlington County		New Jersey	
	N	%	N	%
Physical abuse	590	30.6	12,382	32.0
Emotional abuse	17	0.9	330	0.9
Sexual	98	5.1	2,179	5.6
Neglect	1,153	59.9	22,099	57.1
Multiple types	67	3.5	1,716	4.4
<i>Total</i>	1,925	---	38,706	---
Substantiated rate per 1,000 children	3.8	---	4.0	---
Percent substantiated	20.8	---	21.8	---

In the Burlington County District Office, the active DYFS caseload is 2,218 children and 1,156 families. There are 309 in-state foster homes in Burlington County. There are 208 Burlington County children in foster care, which is 2.7% of the 7,807 children in foster care in New Jersey and substantially less than the percentage of children residing in this county. Of the Burlington County children in foster care, 38.5% reside in a different county than their family, which is less than the out-of-county statewide average of 44.6% and the second lowest in the state.

From 1998 to 2002, six children in Burlington County died as a result of abuse and neglect out of a statewide total of 123. No family of these children had an open/active case with DYFS at the time of their death, and three had been unknown to DYFS. The number of all infants who died in Burlington County in 2000 was 25, 3.5% of the 723 infant deaths occurring in the state. The infant mortality rate of 4.8 deaths under the age of 1 per 1,000 live births was lower than the statewide rate of 6.3.

Child Welfare Outcome Measures

Information on various child welfare outcomes for Burlington County is presented in the following table.¹ Burlington County met only one of the national standards for child welfare outcomes. Compared to the national standard, a much smaller percentage of Burlington children exiting foster care re-entered within 12 months of a previous episode (4.1% compared to the national standard of 8.6%), the second lowest in the state.

¹ See definitions that follow for detailed descriptions of the categories presented in this table.

In all other areas, Burlington County does not meet the national standards for child welfare outcomes. Particularly striking is the incidence of abuse and neglect in foster care. At 1.79%, the percentage of Burlington foster care children who experience abuse and neglect is the fifth highest in the state and well above the national standard of .57%. In addition, compared to the national standard, a smaller percentage of Burlington foster children were reunified with parents or caregivers within twelve months of discharge from foster care (59.5% compared to a national standard of 76.2%), the seventh lowest in the state. There was also a smaller percentage of children who exited foster care for adoption within 24 months compared to the national standard (9.5% compared to a national standard of 32%).

2001 Child Welfare Outcome Measures by County

	Burlington County	State	National Standard
Recurrence of maltreatment	8.2%	6.4%	6.1% or less
A/N incidence in foster care	1.79%	.78%	.57% or less
Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry	59.5%	59.5%	76.2% or more
Re-enter care within 12 months	4.1%	8.2%	8.6% or less
Reduce time in foster care to adoption	9.5%	16.3%	32.0% or more
Increase placement stability	85.4%	86.2%	86.7% or more

Note. Data supplied by DYFS

Definitions

Reduce recurrence of maltreatment – of children who were victims of substantiated or indicated child abuse and/or neglect during the first six months of the reporting period, the percentage who had another substantiated or indicated report within a six-month period.

A/N incidence in foster care – of children who were in foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that was the subject of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member.

Reunify within 12 months without increasing re-entry – of children reunified with parents or caretakers at time of discharge from foster care, the percentage reunified within 12 months.

Re-enter care within 12 months – of children who entered foster care during the reporting period, the percentage that re-entered care within 12 months of leaving foster care episode.

Reduce time in foster care to adoption – of all children who exited foster care to adoption, the percentage who exited within 24 months.

Increase placement stability – of all children who had been in foster care less than 12 months, the percentage who had no more than two placement settings during that time period.

Data Sources

DYFS Approved Foster Homes File, 8/4/03
DYFS Caseload Activity Report (DAR-SISM-5), 8/1/03
DYFS, Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2000
DYFS Child Abuse and Neglect in New Jersey Statistical Report for 2001
DYFS Foster Care File Extract, 6/6/03
DYFS Statewide Summary of Foster Homes (DAR-PCISM-1), 7/4/03
NJ Substantiated Abuse and Neglect Child Fatality Analysis for 1998-2002, July 2003
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Redistricting Data Summary File, Population for the Counties and Municipalities in New Jersey: 1990 and 2000 (PL1)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Age and Sex (GCT-P5)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Geographic Comparison Table, Population, Housing Units, Area and Density (GCT-PH1-R)
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1, Quick Table, QT-P2.
U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Demographic Profiles, Profile of General Demographic Characteristics (DP-1)

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